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State Council of Civil
Defense (Pa.)
Hearing re: Western Area
Emergency Operations Center

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE

HEARING

RE: WESTERN AREA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

House Caucus Room
Wednesday, August 24, 1966
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Prepared by Official Reporters'
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PRESENT:

DR. RICHARD GERSTELL, Director of Civil Defense
MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS R. WHITE, Adjutant General
LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL A. RITTELMANN, Acting Commissioner of
Pennsylvania State Police
HONORABLE DONALD O. OESTERLING, State Senator
HONORABLE H. FRANCIS KENNEDY, State Representative
HONORABLE THOMAS J. TIBERI, State Representative
JAMES A. GREEN, Butler County Commissioner
AUGUST H. BACHMAN, Butler County Commissioner
W. H. McCUNE, Butler County Commissioner
CLINTON C. GREENAWALT, Butler County Civil Defense Director
PAUL R. HOBAUGH, JR., City of Butler Civil Defense Director
GEORGE V. CURRY, Butler County Civil Defense Radef Officer
LEONARD A. GREEN, President, Butler Chamber of Commerce
DR. ROBERT S. CARTER, President, Slippery Rock State College
GEORGE A. STEVENSON, JR., Butler County Clerk of Courts
DON CROUCH, President, Butler County Safety Council
EUGENE MOZER, City of Butler Chief of Police
EUGENE HOFFMAN, Butler County Treasurer
RICHARD RAU, Political Writer, Butler Eagle
L. E. YONT, President, National Storage Company, Inc.
T. V. LEWIS, Venango County Civil Defense Director
CLARENCE C. FRAMPTON, Lawrence County Civil Defense Director
DAVID H. PARMENTER, Erie County Civil Defense Executive Director

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DR. GERSTELL. Gentlemen, we realize you have to get back to Butler this evening early and we do want a full record of who is here, so instead of having you stop and register in a line, Mr. Williamson will pass some sheets around, and if you'll give us your name and address and affiliation we'll have a full record of who was present.

To start the meeting, on my left is Major General Thomas R. White, the Adjutant General, and on my right is Lieutenant Colonel Paul A. Rittelmann, the acting Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police. I am Richard Gerstell. General White and Colonel Rittelmann are members of the State Council of Civil Defense. I am employed by the council in the capacity of Director of Civil Defense.

Lieutenant Governor Shafer, as the elected chairman of the council, has appointed the three of us a select committee of the council to hear the views of the people of Butler County relative to the location of the new Western Area Emergency Operations Center of the State Council of Civil Defense. Our responsibilities then are two-fold: One is to hear your views on this subject - that's what we'll do now - and our second job is following the meeting to prepare a report of what your views are and submit it to the State Council of Civil Defense for their consideration when they act to approve the

site for the three new area centers recently authorized. We want, very frankly and fully, to hear your opinions and the facts they are based on. Our time is your time and, as I say, our job is to listen rather than to talk, but in the belief it may be helpful, let me just run through a few facts about the emergency operations centers in general because if you can tie your remarks to some of these things, it will be helpful to all of us.

The purpose of these centers, and there will be three - there are three and will be three new ones - is to provide the maximum practical emergency assistance to the people in the area through the establishment and maintenance of the facilities required for effective overall direction of state, county and local operations necessitated by enemy attack or national disaster. The facilities correspond in brief to a military or police command post. They are staffed by a comparatively small staff and they perform at this point these functions. One, the receipt and dissemination of warnings of attack, flood, severe weather, fallout, whatever it might be; second, they collect and analyze information concerning fallout, damage, injuries, deaths and other emergency situations; third, they receive assistance requests and arrange for the dispatch of needed manpower, equipment, materials and supplies; four, they

control special forces, radiological defense teams or survey teams operating under the control of the center; five, they exercise control over essential survival resources, gasoline, food, that sort of thing; and, six, they disseminate to county and local civil defense and other organizations and to the public essential emergency information. Obviously, to do this there must be communications between the operation center and the state center at Harrisburg and the county centers throughout the area. Then secondarily day to day these offices are used for administrative purposes by the agencies.

Now the features in the building itself are briefly these: One, it must have fallout protection as contrasted to blast protection. In other words, basically, we're talking about underground facilities or basement space in a building, brick or cement or something of that type, which provides on the sides the earth and on top the concrete to give you reasonable protection under fallout conditions so the people could operate. The second feature is the so-called operating space, in other words, the operations room, the staff service offices, the communications center and finally the very limited toilet and feeding and storage facilities. Then there are the supporting facilities that would be used this way: The operating crew in the operating space, of course, sometimes have

to sleep, so lodging and feeding space for them plus administrative office space for people engaged in purchase and procurement of materials in logistical support of various types of administrative work.

Basically we figure that the operations group as a maximum would be approximately 35 people. The number of supporting personnel in the supporting facilities would vary depending upon the degree and the nature of the emergency faced, but we've had these examples: In the floods of '55 there were between 25 and 30 people here in Harrisburg helping people process their requests for Federal disaster relief. We had the same thing in the Eastern Area Headquarters. Sometimes this builds to a good bit of space.

The last one is emergency power - a generator to keep us going with light, heat, communications and so forth in the event of a commercial power failure.

Those are the facilities. Then the second point becomes where do we locate, and there are four basic governing factors here. One, they must be strategically located. In other words, we do not put them in the areas most likely to be the points of enemy attack. I am speaking, of course, about in this State, say, the Allentown-Bethlehem metropolitan area, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie and the Harrisburg-York-Lancaster

triangle. We don't get in that area which is most likely to be hit. Nobody knows which place may or may not be hit, but we keep out of those and away from blast and heat and, of course, with some of the modern weapons your blast and your destruction can run out 15 miles or more and your serious heat flashes must be certain. We stay out of those areas. We keep in an area where we can lend maximum support to the possible strike areas. In other words, in western Pennsylvania we certainly wouldn't go into the southwest corner of the State where we might in the event of a major strike on Pittsburgh get cut off from all the rest of the area by damage and fallout and that sort of thing.

The next requirement is that it be as far as possible in an area where the probability of fallout is low. Now any place may receive fallout. Nobody knows until after the event and what happens after the bomb explodes - it depends upon the winds blowing at that time. We're not speaking of ground winds; we're speaking of winds 50, 60, 80,000 feet above the ground which vary sometimes; that's just an altitude.

Basically, as far as Pennsylvania is concerned, our hazards from fallout most of the time are from bombs exploding in western Pennsylvania or Ohio or to the west of us. Any bomb exploding in Philadelphia in good weather - the fallout goes to New Jersey rather than to us. But any place

could be subject to it under certain circumstances. However, all the computer work that the Department of Defense has done shows that some areas are more likely to encounter it than others. But none of this would be in itself the determining factor.

The third is we must have good communications, as I said, with Harrisburg, with counties in the area and with state mobile units within the area. We would rely primarily on wireline facilities both for reasons of cost, practicality and so forth, but we must have radio backup and the only other way, of course, we reach our mobile units is by radio.

The fourth factor is that we need the supporting facilities; we need to be someplace where we have that space for feeding and sleeping and lodging and so forth and where there are trained personnel immediately available. At the present time the Department of Defense has said and does say to the States that if there is warning of attack, the most you can count on is 15 minutes. So we have to have people close by, as contrasted to some distance away.

Very briefly, those are the factors and the more you speak to those the more it will help us. I think I've finished. We want to throw the meeting to you unless -

General White, do you have anything?

GENERAL WHITE. No.

DR. GERSTELL. Colonel?

COLONEL RITTELMANN. No.

DR. GERSTELL. Then now we'll listen to you.

Senator Oesterling, have you a spokesman or will you act as spokesman?

SENATOR OESTERLING. Commissioner Green will act as spokesman.

DR. GERSTELL. Commissioner Green of Butler County will be your spokesman, then. I ask only one thing and, Commissioner, if anybody wishes to file a written statement, we'll be glad to incorporate that into the record. You're perfectly at liberty to do that. I ask as you speak that you identify yourself or that Mr. Green identify you by name and by title so our very capable secretary here will have the right remarks attributed to the proper person. Commissioner Green of Butler County.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you, Doctor. I'd like to preface my remarks by saying that your court stenographer her brother happens to be our official court stenographer in Butler County, so you've done well to start here already.

On behalf of the County Commissioners of

Butler County and all those good people here today, we certainly are grateful to Lieutenant Governor Shafer for providing this opportunity in appointing this subcommittee to hear from the citizens of Butler County and to come here and talk to you about Civil Defense. I think from the beginning I want to make the issue clear that all in this room are interested in Civil Defense. We have no axe to grind. We are here to tell you about Butler County and to make some suggestions to you and to alert you as to what we have and what we think would be the best location for the permanent headquarters for western Pennsylvania.

To start off I am going to call on the president of the Butler Chamber of Commerce, who has prepared a transportation map pointing out to the subcommittee the roads, the facilities, the airports and what have you in Butler County. Lenny is an employe of the People's Telephone Company, quite active in the Chamber and I know that he has a message for the subcommittee.

MR. GREEN. Thank you, Commissioner, Senator, gentlemen. My remarks are going to be directed toward highways. I sometimes have mixed emotions on this, being in the communications business. I am also a member of the Butler County Civil Defense Communications Coordinating Committee.

Under the highway subject here, we feel that Butler County is quite strategically located from a centralized point of view in western Pennsylvania. We feel that this has certain aspects of benefit, insofar as being in close miles to the other county centers that would be served from a Western Area Civil Defense Headquarters center. We feel that our highway system lends itself well to disperse to and from Butler County. We have east and west through the heart of Butler County U. S. Route 422, four-lane from the county line into the city, a bypass of limited access around the city of Butler and three lanes from about three miles west of the city on through the county line, six and a half miles of which are presently coming out for bids to be made a limited access, four-lane highway within the next couple of years.

We have Pennsylvania State Route 8 north and south through the heart of our county. This is four-lane between Butler and Pittsburgh at the present time and is being planned and on the board for within the next three to five years to be extended to four lanes on north.

We have other state highways coming in and out of the city and county and other secondary roads. For the most part we feel that we have some of the best highway networks for the type of operation we're trying to promote here right now.

We have on the western perimeter of our county Interstate Route 79, a good deal of which is already constructed through the Butler County area, and within the next year or two plans are that this will connect Wheeling, West Virginia, and the city of Erie. We have at the northern tip not shown on this map but it actually does touch Butler County and then borders along just exactly north of us in Venango County the U. S. Interstate Route 80, which began as a border-to-border highway on Pennsylvania, the Erie-Stroudsburg Freeway, as it is better known, and again it would have tremendous potential for fast moving of any type of vehicular or conveying type of traffic.

So much for the highways. I have spotted some of the air facilities here. We have within five miles of the city of Butler four air fields and within 10 miles still another one. We have one with a 4,000-foot, paved, lighted strip and plans are within the next year or so to extend this facility, that is the Graham Field south of Butler at Nixon, to take on light jets. We have another paved strip west of the city along Route 68 near the village of Meridian, and this facility is also lighted for night use and paved and will accommodate light aircraft. We have two or three, maybe more, unpaved strips that are privately owned, but they are FCC

licensed. Of course, I think you're aware of the fact - if you aren't I'll mention it here for the record - that we are within less than an hour's drive of the Greater Pittsburgh Airport which, of course, provides all types of air transportation potential to the Greater Butler area.

Another thing, and I dwell on transportation primarily because of my first encounter with Civil Defense back around 1950 or 1951 when I was in the Civil Defense Police and we had an alert in Meadville. All of our meetings dwelled upon the fact that to have a good civil defense organization, highways and transportation was a must in order to get supplies in, supplies out, personnel in and personnel out. And so here again I point out with the green lines the tremendous rail potential that Butler offers in the way of rail transportation. Here we have over 80 miles - that's 80 route miles - and, of course, many more track miles because many of these are old track, some are not any longer. But we do have rail transportation representing some of the largest rail facilities in the Nation, mainly the Pennsylvania, the B & O and the Bessemer and Lake Erie.

I think, gentlemen, as far as my part of the program is concerned, I'm trying to keep it brief because I know there are a number of people to speak, but I feel that as

the president of the Chamber of Commerce encompassing over 500 members, we feel Butler County deserves its rightful recognition for this center remaining. Thank you.

DR. GERSTELL. Mr. Green, do you suppose I could work with you and work out - I think perhaps for our report we could incorporate these maps in a small scale.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. That's one of the subjects that Dr. Gerstell pointed out. The second one in moving along that was called to our attention was the fallout potential in Butler County and possibly in comparison to the suggested or rumored site of Indiana County. We have asked George Curry, a Butler Countian, who is the supervisor at the Carnegie Tech Research Lab at Saxonburg and who is the Butler County CD Radef Officer, to touch on fallout. George?

MR. CURRY. Gentlemen, I, too, will try to be as brief as possible, for I know that there are other testimony and other people to be heard. Dr. Gerstell has very concisely pointed out some of the factors which are involved in any consideration of fallout in the western Pennsylvania area. I have prepared a little map here which shows some of the strategic points, the ADC bases, as well as some of the population centers which certainly are going to be considered as secondary cards. Our prime consideration as far as hazards

in the western Pennsylvania area, certainly, is that in the West. There are many vagaries and many uncertainties in any evaluation of the relative fallout hazard. The types of weapons, the meteorological conditions, weathering, many factors are involved here. So to come up with a very definite and concrete statement based on those factors would be very uncertain. However, there is some information based on experiment and based on fact which we can rely on to give us a more definite picture of the radiological hazard in this area.

Now I have prepared a number of overlays. I might be able to show you from a number of situations based on FAA type C teletype reports which I am sure most of you are familiar with, which report upper air erections and vectors. I have gone through a number of these for as far back as 1961 and I have drawn some rather definite conclusions concerning some of these conditions. This happens to be one which is dated November 14, 1961. Oh, let me explain: The original map that I had was to have been made twice the scale of the one that I submitted and, frankly, we ran out of space here, so the graphsmen had to make it slightly smaller than what I had proposed. I had prepared a number of very nice acetate overlays so that you could see very clearly what was happening, but unfortunately at the last minute I had to make them in the new scale and so I

was forced to make them with onionskin paper, but I think it will be clear enough.

This happens to be the UF report for November 14, 1961, and oriented properly on the map. This, by the way, is a three-hour forecast. This tells me that the area encompassed by the perimeter of these tangents - the lines adjoining the tangents of these circles tell me that within three hours there will be a deposition of fallout encompassing this area. It doesn't tell us anything about the amount of fallout or the dosage, but it tells us that it will arrive and will have deposited on that area within a three-hour period of time.

I have chosen to indicate four strategic locations in western Pennsylvania. You may see there properly oriented that Butler and Slippery Rock are out of the area which would be involved in the deposition of fallout from the cloud but that Indiana and points to the east, much farther east than Harrisburg, as a matter of fact, are included. Now I could go through these and I would be happy to do that, but I don't think the time is going to permit. I'm just picking these out at random. Here's one for November 8, 1964. Butler happens to be in the area this time, as is Indiana. Slippery Rock, no.

Now these are presented on the supposition that there will be a hit on Pittsburgh, but we must also consider those hits which will take place in this entire area, gentlemen, because within a period of three to six hours, the entire area of western Pennsylvania will receive fallout from these areas. I have the results of another study here, which was made by the Weather Bureau, and this was over a five-year period. They made climatological studies; they made studies from the Raven UF reports. I only have a dozen of each of these copies to distribute. Would you pass them around? I would like to show the differences in the probabilities of fallout in various areas over a five-year period of time. For instance, the information from the Raven UF station at Dayton, Ohio, is one which we will have to consider in western Pennsylvania. I hope you can see it. This tells me that if there is a hit on Dayton, Ohio, that the various areas encompassed by these lines will be subject to a probability of fallout deposition within a period of 12 hours, and the lines delineate the percentages of probability. For instance, in the circle at the target area the probability is rated at 95 percent, 70 percent at the next line out, 50 percent and 30 percent. Now a hit on Dayton will bring a fallout probability of 30 percent into the western Pennsylvania area. These are studies made, now remember - these

are studies made over a five-year period and they tell us that the chances of fallout are according to these percentages. I might take this same pattern and could move it anywhere in this sector and it would be valid. There is one for the Pittsburgh area. Yes, some of you have that also. Here again, a hit on Pittsburgh defines the 95 percent probability, 70, 50 and 30. Those of you who have copies of this will note that the city of Butler is just within that area defined by the 30 percent probability line. The city of Indiana is right in the middle of the 70 percent probability area. Here again I could take this and I could move this same pattern anywhere in that area and the information provided me would be valid.

Now I think, gentlemen, the basis of studies made by the organizations and information that I have here would certainly indicate to me that as far as the hazard is concerned from any target to our west, there would be little or no choice between Indiana or any other part of the western part of the State, but certainly, gentlemen, I am firmly convinced that a hit on Pittsburgh will produce much, much more fallout to this area than it will to that area. Thank you.

DR. GERSTELL. If we may, we'll talk to you about a copy of a good map, plus the Weather Bureau material we have.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you very much, George. Transportation, fallout, now communications. Our CD County Director who has been long active in CD work and makes this field one of the best in western Pennsylvania will touch on communications as he sees it as the CD Director of the county.

MR. GREENAWALT. Dr. Gerstell, General White, Colonel Rittelmann, on May 19, 1966, at a state meeting held here in Harrisburg, Dr. Gerstell announced to our group that three new Area Control Centers were to be built in the State, one in Hamburg, Selinsgrove and Indiana. I immediately upon returning to Butler contacted our County Commissioners with this news that we were going to lose our Western Area Office; it was going to be moved to Indiana. We were concerned with this news; the commissioners were very much concerned. They made a trip to Harrisburg the following Monday to meet with Dr. Gerstell and to question why and to offer room for the Western Area Office in our new contemplated building, the County Hospital, which will be incorporated into the new building.

The need or reason for moving the Western Area Office from Butler was, and is, hard to accept without a good reason for doing so, especially when Butler was all right for the original choice and considering how Butler County has

cooperated always to any request made by the Western Area Office in its need for equipment or manpower. Cooperation with the Western Area Headquarters is a matter of record which can be vouched for by record and by the word of any County Director throughout our history.

At numerous times Butler County Commissioners have been good to us. They have furnished equipment and manpower to load plasma bottles, offered E.O.C. space for the Western Area Office during emergencies, made numerous trips to the Pittsburgh Airport when the Air Force was moved out to bring back surplus property, delivered tables to the Western Area Headquarters and so on for training purposes or state alerts or national alerts. The County Civil Defense Office also has made arrangements for storage of some equipment at the National Storage Company at Boyers, and using county trucks, moved two additional truck loads of equipment, namely field first-aid units and so on, after the state civil defense trucks left.

We have many times at the request of the Western Area Office moved manpower and equipment into disaster areas, such as flooding.

These facts are only being brought out to show the cooperation which has been extended by our Butler County Board of Commissioners to the Area Headquarters, and I

wish to state that it always has been done willingly and without question.

I believe it is understandable - knowing all that Butler County has to offer and the aid it has given and is willing to give the Area Office - that our citizens of Butler County and surrounding counties became concerned, and then aroused to action and finally this meeting.

Now to give you a small percentage here or group of some of our trained personnel we have in Butler County and our communications capabilities - we have approximately 3,500 people enrolled in Civil Defense in Butler County, which includes trained personnel from all walks of life. We have approximately 700 trained auxiliary police, 1,400 trained firemen, 100 shelter managers and 196 radiological monitors. I would also like to mention that our County Radef Officer, Mr. George Curry, Cyclotron Supervisor at Carnegie Tech Nuclear Research Center at Saxonburg, is so efficient and learned in his field that he has been called upon many times by Penn State University to help in training programs.

Dr. Gerstell, in his June 21 letter, states, and I quote, "First, the new centers must be located at points where adequate and effective area-wide communications can be maintained at all times. This calls for not only land-line,

but radio facilities - capable of linking each county as well as state control at Harrisburg."

Now concerning fire radio in Butler County, I would like to mention first that Butler County was the first county in the State to participate in matching funds for radio equipment. Our initial investment was \$90,000, which we have added to continuously in the past 10 years. We have 33 fire companies with complete radio facilities, mobile and base stations. Also, we have cross frequencies with nearly all the other counties in the Western Area.

In this connection I would like to quote from communications received from Hoyt H. Stout, Regional Sales Manager, Motorola Company - "We find that at the present time, you have much more communications, with better equipped fire network - as well as more police radio in operation, and better coordinated than they do in Indiana. The amount of cross monitoring that is being done at the present time between county fire networks is much superior in Butler than in Indiana. Your method of blowing sirens by radio in comparison to that in Indiana is much superior also." And from the Bernard Busch Company, who service our fire radio in Butler County - "Reception to the west of Indiana is very spotty - and Butler is unlimited due to terrain of county. Indiana will be unable to reach

Allegheny County. There are no mountains surrounding Butler. Indiana must use land-line to antenna four to five miles north-east of Indiana to a ridge among other antennas to get out."

Our amateur Radio Headquarters in Butler check in every Sunday morning with the state network of 90 to 100 other stations. We lay this to the interest and leadership of Ralph Adelman, who is on the State Board of Amateur Radio Operators and is the Butler County Radio Officer.

Our state police barracks in Butler, which is Troop D, and who cooperate with Civil Defense, can communicate with 18 of the 22 counties in the Western Area. The Federal Government approved and installed a 300-watt emergency radio and antenna for the state police, which is capable of reaching Harrisburg. We also have Fire and Civil Defense Monitors incorporated in this emergency-equipped police barracks.

The present Game Commission and Civil Defense Radio at the Western Area Office is capable of reaching Harrisburg daily. Possibly the contemplated teletype, which has been promised to us in the future, will also tie in with this.

Also our Butler County Highway Department can communicate with 19 out of 22 counties.

We have a sheriff's radio which is hooked

up with 10 mobile units in the county on the Sheriff frequency.

We have approximately 200 Citizen Band Radio mobile and base stations which will cooperate with us in an emergency.

The above communications information shows that Butler County's present communications as a whole are not only comparable, but better than Indiana and capable of reaching all the counties in western Pennsylvania and also Harrisburg.

Thank you, gentlemen.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you very much, Clint. Transportation, fallout, communications. The fourth point we'd like to call the committee's attention to will be handled by Paul Hobaugh, who is the city of Butler CD Director, and Paul will bring some information about disaster, floods and warnings and so forth. Paul?

MR. HOBAUGH. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the subcommittee, because of the nature of this report, I have written this information. If you so desire, I can file a written report with your committee within a 24-hour period. There are figures here that I think are quite important, so I wrote this report out for you.

Of course, we're all very cognizant of the fact that Civil Defense is interested mainly in the protection

of life and property, and one of the things that we are quite concerned about in western Pennsylvania is the flood situation, so we would like to present for your consideration the role of the Western Area Office in Butler performing that very task of saving life and saving property as it concerns the flood situation in western Pennsylvania, particularly the Pittsburgh River District.

From the spring thaws, the heavy rain and so on, we do have a major problem almost yearly. Now let's look first at the most recent natural disaster and wave of flood: This came on February 13 through 16 of just this year. I'd like to quote from a report that was filed with the Director of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D.C. This was filed by Paul Jacoby, who is the Meteorologist in charge of the Federal-State Flood Forecasting Service, Pittsburgh. "The February flood was caused by heavy rainfall and rapid snow removal through run-off combined with the break-up of an ice gorge on the Allegheny River, which resulted in severe flood damage in the district. Total flood damages for the 26,000 square mile area of the Pittsburgh River District have been estimated at \$1,347,000 and savings, due to flood warnings, at \$7,640,000. The most severe damage occurred along the Allegheny River due to ice break-up. The largest single damage was to city, town and

village property (both residential and industrial) which amounted to \$1,216,300 or about 90 percent of the total damage." Still quoting from Mr. Jacoby's report - and I would call your attention to this, gentlemen - "In Western Pennsylvania, damages were held to a minimum of \$862,300, while savings amounted to \$5,697,000. Such savings are due largely to the efficient flood warning and dissemination program in Western Pennsylvania under the direct supervision of Mr. Ross I. Webb, the Western Area Civil Defense Director. Mr. Webb and his staff are very effective in the field during times of flood emergencies and work very closely with this office. No loss of life during this February flood speaks well for the Civil Defense program."

Gentlemen, at this time I would like to refer you to the Schematic Diagram of the Key River Stations in the Pittsburgh River District. If you will compare the location of Butler, the center of that area, and then look at Indiana, you will see there's no comparison as far as flood warning is concerned. The Western Area Office being located at Butler can do a much better job in that location than they could if they were at Indiana, because in their present position they are right in the middle of the Pittsburgh River District.

Now going back just a few years, based on a study of floods in the Pittsburgh River District for the past

15 years, total damages are estimated at \$80.25 million or about \$5.33 million annually. Total savings through flood warning systems over the 15-year period - almost \$60 million or about \$4 million annually. Now remembering that the Western Area Office has been in Butler since 1952, let's check the figures on two of the most disastrous situations we had, according to the survey.

October of 1954 - I think everyone will remember Hurricane Hazel. Damages, just over \$16 million. Savings through flood warnings, \$10.5 million. January, 1959, we had a serious ice flood. Damages went to almost \$23 million. Savings through flood warnings, \$15.5 million. In these two floods alone, the savings was 44 percent of the total savings during the entire 15-year period.

Quoting from a report by Vernon T. Houghton, Jr., of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Pittsburgh, "The savings resulting from precautionary measures being taken after the receipt of flood warnings for one major flood is sufficient to pay for the entire operation of the Pittsburgh River Flood Forecasting Service for a period of 100 years or more." In western Pennsylvania alone, flood damage over this 15-year period has amounted to about \$47.5 million. The savings through warning systems, keeping in mind the Western Area Office location as

you look at the map - \$37.5 million.

In 1961 cooperative emergency reporting programs were established with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and in December of that year there were 21 game protectors of the Northwest Division who were put in a test to see just how long it would take to bring the news to the Pittsburgh area, to the Pittsburgh Weather Bureau and the Forecasting Service of flood conditions, river conditions from Franklin to Pittsburgh. This was done, gentlemen, in just 23 minutes. There is a similar operation with the Western Area Civil Defense Office and the Pennsylvania State Police, along with the Pennsylvania game people.

In closing, gentlemen, I think this points out, as far as flood damages are concerned, that we have a very efficient operation in our Western Area Office right in Butler. When we think of efficiency, gentlemen, I like to give this definition: The right man, in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing, in the right way. And we feel that Ross Webb at Butler answers that problem. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you very much, Paul. Transportation, fallout, communications and disaster coverage. When the board heard about the possibility or the request of seeking information as to what it would cost to build

a shelter and discovered that the University of Indiana was being considered for a site location, we in Butler County felt that, having a college, we certainly would have as much to offer the State as Indiana. We immediately got in contact with the president of our Slippery Rock College and discovered that his schedule had him in Harrisburg at the same time as our meeting today. We asked Dr. Carter if he could stop by and comment with reference and briefing him on what has taken place, that there is a possible building program going on in Indiana where costs are being determined including a shelter with something of it being built presently or going to be built on the campus of Indiana.

Dr. Carter is here this morning and he will enlighten us and all the committee on the building program that is going to take place at Slippery Rock and where it will certainly be possible to connect a shelter with some of these programs. Dr. Carter?

DR. CARTER. I think in addition to possible building sites, there are a couple of other things the committee should be interested in. At the present time we have some 800 physical education majors at Slippery Rock; we schedule to double this number by 1970 and all of these people will have had training in first aid. I think you should know that Slippery Rock is some

three miles from Interstate 79, which is completed at that point. It is only five miles from I guess you'd call it the Shortway, running perpendicular to Interstate 79.

In terms of some of the additional facilities that are available here, I think that we might mention that the Bessemer has an airport with paved runways, which is only five miles from the campus. In addition to the physical education training at Slippery Rock, we have a physical therapy program and all of these people have had additional work in the kind of things that are necessary in the times of disaster.

With respect to our building program - within the last week the architect was appointed for a new dining hall; he is starting his work. Tomorrow I have sessions with General State Authority in connection with a classroom building and a library. A student center and fine arts center started yesterday. Any of these would be available in terms of additional space to be added to any of the existing projects. In addition, we're scheduled for \$26 million worth of buildings between now and 1970. I assume - and this must be an assumption if we're talking about space - there will be more than 25,000 square feet available under the dining hall, for instance, which would be totally underground because that dining hall is to be on a sloping site. It could be made available.

I think you should also know that Slippery Rock is very fortunate in terms of land area, if this is to be a separate and distinct building. Slippery Rock State College has more available land for building than any of the four western state colleges combined. Therefore, I would offer space at Slippery Rock for your consideration in connection with the establishment of the Western Civil Defense Center.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you, Dr. Carter. Even though we lack the status of a university, we certainly have the troops.

I'm sure the committee has received much, much correspondence and I know two men who have concerned their interest here and are members of the legislature here in Harrisburg. They are two with us today and are interested to see that the Area Headquarters for Western Pennsylvania stays in Butler County. I'd like at this time to ask either Representative Tiberi or Kennedy if they would care to make a statement.

REP. KENNEDY. Thank you, Jim. I don't think I have very much to add. You had a lot of expert facts presented to you today. I'd like to say that shortly after this news reached our county, I received many letters of deep concern over the moving of this Civil Defense Center away from our county where our people have learned and become a part of

it. I think everybody in Butler County feels a part of Civil Defense. It's been that way since 1952 and it's continuously growing as our people feel more a part of it.

So I would just like to urge you to take into deep consideration all the facts that have been presented here this morning and I would like the letter that I had written you, Dr. Gerstell, some time ago giving the information that was supplied to me by many of my constituents - I'd like this to be made part of this record. Thank you.

DR. GERSTELL. I have that letter, Mr. Kennedy. I shall include it.

REP. TIBERI. Gentlemen, the people of Butler County are certainly proud to be in integral part of the Western Area Office of Civil Defense. Our community is a progressive one; our people are very industrious. Our community has an abundance of highly talented men and women with a quality of leadership which excels in all fields of enterprise.

I ask you gentlemen to come to Butler; see for yourself what Butler has to offer. For 14 years Butler was the best place for the Western Area Headquarters. In the early 1960's the Cuban crisis tested the Butler site as a suitable headquarters. I feel, gentlemen, that we have an awful lot to offer in Butler County; it's just too numerous to mention

here the tremendous potential we have there. And I certainly recommend that you stay with us and in the end we will show you that we do have a progressive community, one that wants the Civil Defense Headquarters to stay in Butler County so that we can prove our worth and our value. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you, Tom and Francis, for taking time to come with us today. I only regret that neither of you is on the Appropriations Committee.

We also have with us today - and I would like to ask if any of the three would like to make a comment - the CD Directors of Erie, Lawrence and Venango. Mr. Lewis from Venango County, would you care to make a statement?

MR. LEWIS. Thank you, Mr. Green. Under date of June 7, 1966, there was forwarded to this committee a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners from Venango County. I ask that that resolution be made a part of this record, and I am here today to represent those same three commissioners. Thank you for letting me come.

MR. FRAMPTON. Gentlemen, I would like to say in behalf of the Lawrence County Civil Defense Council that we feel that to move the Western Area Headquarters to a farther county from Lawrence County, such as Indiana, would place a hardship of Lawrence County inasmuch as in the last few years

we have attended many meetings and training stations in the Butler area. We have fire and police communications which we have tied in with the Butler Headquarters now. We have very close working relations with the Western Area Control at this time. We feel, and I believe every gentleman in this room knows, how hard it is to get staff members and volunteers who attend training courses to travel any distance at all. And we feel by moving the Western Area Control to a farther distance from Lawrence County, that this will place a burden on our staff members and our communications with the Western Area. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you, Clarence.

MR. PARMENTER. Gentlemen, I'd like to first of all say that both the County Directors and Civil Defense organizations of Erie County are satisfied with the present arrangement with Civil Defense. We're very well satisfied with the headquarters at Butler and with Mr. Webb as the Area Director.

As you know, Erie is perhaps the most remote point in Pennsylvania and there is quite a feeling in Erie that sometimes we're the forgotten corner of Pennsylvania. We could prove it, but this is not our point today. We, too, urge you to be very reluctant about moving the Area Office of the Western Area of Civil Defense any further away from Erie. It's quite hard, as the gentleman from Lawrence said, to get our people to

travel a distance to these meetings or the training sessions and so forth. It's now approximately 100 miles; to move to Indiana would make it about 150 miles. Don't do it if you can help it.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you, Dave.

In addition to these men who have taken the time to come down here and whom we thank, we have correspondence which we will make part of the record from Beaver County, Crawford, Westmoreland, Fayette, Greene, Mercer, Washington, Lawrence, Venango, Elk and from the mayors of Meadville, New Castle and Sharon expressing the same sentiment as these three CD Directors from these three counties which were mentioned.

In addition to this, gentlemen, this is the presentation on Butler County per se and because we were told that a resolution was passed by the council that had met last year in August that the new shelter facilities would be built on state-owned property. In view that there is a possibility that the council might reconsider this resolution, we have a very unique facility in Butler County of a mine that has been taken over and made into a very commercial good enterprise in the storing of records, and I know that each member of this committee has received communications and a brochure on this mine. In addition to that, we are very fortunate today to have

the president of the National Storage Company come down with us and make a few remarks in case the council would consider going into a mine not owned by the State nor on state property. Mr. Yont is here now and I'd like to call on him.

MR. YONT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the president of the National Storage Company, who operates the largest underground security site in the United States of a civilian nature. Upon hearing that the Western Area of Civil Defense was being considered to be relocated at Indiana University, I felt that perhaps the state council might be interested in considering the facilities that we have, so I on August 10 wrote a rather lengthy letter to Lieutenant Governor Shafer explaining our facilities and he very graciously answered my letter on August 12. I would like to read his reply to the committee.

Dear Mr. Yont,

Thank you very much for sending me your observations with reference to the location of the Western Pennsylvania Headquarters of the State Council of Civil Defense. Your lengthy position paper is very persuasive and I am immediately going to send it to the Director of the State Civil Defense Council.

I am certain that the subcommittee and

council as a whole will give serious consideration to all the evidence presented to it. Whether or not the subcommittee can personally inspect your facilities is a matter which must remain in the discretion of the subcommittee.

Thank you again for directing your views to my attention.

Cordially,

Raymond P. Shafer

My basic reason for directing that letter to Lieutenant Governor Shafer was that it was my understanding that the subcommittee's basic reason for considering the transfer of the Western Area site from the Veterans Hospital in Butler to Indiana was perhaps one involving fallout contamination. I recognize there probably were many other factors, but from what I was able to ascertain, that seemed to be the fundamental factor.

I would like to, for the record, refer to the Department of Defense publication on the fallout shelter program, which was issued in June of 1964, which shows a fallout pattern at random assuming that a wide range of targets were struck from nuclear weapons throughout the country. At closer observation this map would indicate that the Butler area would

require two days to one week shelter occupancy, while it is one to two weeks in the Indiana area. I realize that that was predicated, no doubt, on normal wind direction which obviously no one can predict what that pattern might be. But I am assuming that this was based on the normal flow of fallout patterned at a specific time of the year. As a matter of fact, this indicates it was during the spring.

Again I would like to point out that assuming that the subcommittee and the state council would consider a commercial facility in which to relocate, certainly one of the basic considerations would be the blast protection that would be afforded. And, of course, when we discuss blast protection, why, we feel that we excel. I would like also for the record to read from this same pamphlet a statement by Secretary McNamara in his testimony before the Armed Services Committee in early 1964, and again I would like to quote this.

Far more important, the effectiveness of an active ballistic missile defense system in saving lives depends in large part upon the existence of an adequate Civil Defense system. Indeed, in the absence of an adequate fallout shelter, an active defense might not significantly increase proportions of the population surviving in an all-out nuclear attack. Offensive missiles could

easily be targeted at points outside the offended area, and thereby achieve by fallout what otherwise would have to be achieved by blast and heat effects. For this reason, the very austere Civil Defense program recommended by the President, which I will discuss later, should be given priority over procurement and employment of any additions to the active defense.

I read that exerpt from his testimony, basically, for the purpose of having the committee consider blast, because I think we all recognize that there could be a near miss and if such should happen, the fact that you might be safeguarded from radioactive fallout would not of necessity give you the corresponding protection of blast. As a matter of fact, it would put your very lives in jeopardy.

Our facility is located approximately 15 miles north of the present site of the Western Area Headquarters. It's strictly rural in character, although we will only be seven miles from the new Keystone Shortway, where there will be constructed an interchange. To the west we are about 12 miles from the new Interstate 79, which, of course, as you know, runs from Erie to the southern border of Pennsylvania. So that from the standpoint of accessibility over the road, we

feel that we are in a very unique position.

Our facility is 220 feet below the surface of the earth. The major portion of the overburden is of various rock strata. We have 80 acres of usable floor space in this facility. We have developed over 11 and a half acres, which is being used by industry, government and finance in 38 States in the Nation for the safeguarding of vital records and vital data against any form of disaster.

In addition, as Dr. Gerstell pointed out, one of the essential requirements would be the ability to maintain operations independent of outside sources of public power. We have in our mine perhaps one of the largest underground power plants in the State. This power plant will generate 600 kilowatts of electricity, sufficient to sustain normal living conditions for the inhabitants of 300 residential homes. Over and beyond that, we maintain also underground 25,000 gallons of fuel storage which would permit us to maintain operations for 40 days independent of public power and without replenishing the fuel.

One of the perhaps greatest merits for the council or the subcommittee considering our facility is the fact that the Federal Government is using our facility as well as the Commonwealth for records, but more important, the Public

Health Service is now storing five and a half acres of medical supplies, comprising 250,000 square feet of floor space. These supplies are valued in excess of \$10 million to \$12 million and, of course, with the headquarters of the Western Area situated contiguous to this development, I think it is obvious that the ability to perform the very functions for which Civil Defense exists would be seriously and importantly advanced.

I have here just a few pictures, gentlemen, in color of this medical stock pile. There are around 25 Federal employees who operate this 220 feet below the surface. It took 700 trailer trucks to fill this place. Everything is handled mechanically. Here you see pictures of the area devoted to the fork trucks, the charging area where everything comes in and is handled by fork trucks. These are a few pictures of the medical stock pile itself. Over and above that, should the council feel receptive to considering a commercial facility, our company would at no capital cost either to the State or to the Federal Government construct this facility and it would be negotiated on a lease basis. We have estimated, based on the proposed expenditure at Indiana, that the rental would be somewhat in the neighborhood of interest on the capital expense of that facility.

So that you would have the emergency power;

you would have a water supply - we maintain a million-gallon reservoir underground that would be impervious to fallout; you would have armed guards around the clock, all of whom have been security cleared both by DOD and ADC.

Now another facet to this facility that I think bears touching upon is the fact that I feel it's safe to assume and make the statement that approximately 75 percent of the major industries of the Commonwealth have all their vital records stored in our facility. In addition, the financial data of two of the largest cities, the majority of them, is also stored in our facility. Over and beyond that, we have developed for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland - which incidentally controls the financial operations of the national banks in the greater portion of the western area - we have 3,000 square feet developed as an emergency relocation site, which they would make a rendezvous of for reconstructing the financial structure of the banking industry in this district.

I thank you, gentlemen.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Yont.

In summing up, gentlemen, our presentation today, we asked our Senator of Butler County, as we know him, the Voice of the County," but before I do that, so I don't get accused - our board works on three members and sometimes I get

accused of doing all the talking. So I would ask either of my colleagues, Commissioner Bachman or Commissioner McCune, if they care to say anything before we sum it up.

COMMISSIONER BACHMAN. I think you're doing very well.

COMMISSIONER GREEN. Put that in the record.

With that we'll sum up and end our presentation with our thanks for your patience. Senator Oesterling?

SENATOR OESTERLING. I might say that I speak here for both Butler and Lawrence Counties in that we have unanimity with the commissioners, the city officials and various other organizations, Civil Defense people, to place an entreaty before this subcommittee and the State Civil Defense Council to maintain its present headquarters in Butler.

Gentlemen of the subcommittee, I promised Dr. Gerstell that we would bring a busload of people down here to this hearing and we have done that. There are several who have not been heard from and I would like just as a matter of putting it on the record to let you know that we do have a bipartisan effort involved in this presentation. Commissioner Green is also our Democratic County Chairman. We have the Republican County Chairman, who is also the Clerk of Courts, Mr. George Stevenson, here. We're happy to have you, George.

We also have the president of our Butler County Safety Council, who is very much interested in this movement, who is also the postmaster in Butler, Don Crouch. We have the Chief of Police of the city of Butler, Chief Mozer, Eugene Mozer. We have also another row officer, the county treasurer, Mr. Eugene Hoffman. We had the sheriff and his deputy here but they had to go to another meeting, Sheriff Pete Watson and his deputy, Dick Elliot. We also have the political writer from the Butler Eagle, Mr. Richard Rau, here and we're happy to have Dick here. I think we've gone the route.

You've gotten the facts as we see them in Butler County, why we feel that Butler County should be maintained as the Area Headquarters. I would like to recount a little history if I might and tell you that in April of 1965 Mr. Greenawalt got hold of me and said, "We're supposed to have a new Area Headquarters someplace. Would you check into it?" I immediately got hold of Dr. Gerstell to find out whether or not or what the status was and found that we were at that moment considering legislation which would appropriate the necessary money for three Area Headquarters. At that time there was no mention made that there was any possibility of a change of the Western Area Headquarters. We heard nothing more other than a follow-through on the bill that got the money appropriated. We

heard nothing then until Mr. Greenawalt came back from a meeting here in Harrisburg, at which time he quoted Dr. Gerstell as saying that there would be three Area Headquarters and the Western Area Headquarters would be in Indiana. This is the point at which the troops started to move because we were concerned. We had no indication. All of the members of the State Civil Defense Council were contacted. They knew nothing about any contemplated change. Dr. Gerstell claimed that he never made such a statement.

About three weeks ago we got word - it may have been four weeks ago - we got word that the General State Authority had approved a project for Indiana State University, including the Area Headquarters for Civil Defense. I immediately contacted Dr. Gerstell's office to find out if this were true, and he said, "Well, it's not really true, but we have to have a starting point. This is the only way we have to get the necessary facts and figures and cost element, by putting it onto a building at Indiana." I don't understand why it couldn't have been a building at Slippery Rock just as easily.

At any rate, I had an interview with Dr. Gerstell in his office at which time he said that there had been no recommendation made for a change to Indiana. As a matter of fact, he said that they were preparing further

information concerning establishment of the agencies, three authorized area centers, which would be submitted to the State Council of Civil Defense and at that time was being prepared to be sent to the Lieutenant Governor's office. Subsequently, I learned that there was a very definite recommendation in that report to change the Area Headquarters from Butler to Indiana. Dr. Gerstell stopped in my office the following week, at which time I asked him repeatedly if he had made this recommendation and I had the feeling of going in a revolving door and coming back out on the street because I got quite a little bit of double talk, I thought, until finally after repeatedly asking him whether or not this recommendation had been made he said, yes, it had been made.

Now you people have probably seen this report. I haven't seen it but I know that it exists. Now the problem of site is one that has bothered me consistently and I wonder whether or not the State Council of Civil Defense really knew what they were doing when they approved the recommendation of Dr. Gerstell with regard to the placement of the Area Headquarters on state property. I rather feel that the council, being so wrapped up in their own responsibilities, all being department heads or cabinet officers or what have you, don't really have the time to explore what is going on

in Civil Defense here in the State of Pennsylvania and have, therefore, relied on Dr. Gerstell's judgment to a great degree and, as a matter of fact, last August when they met approved a recommendation made by Dr. Gerstell without really looking the situation over. And I submit that there may be a possibility that we are overlooking a very good bet by not considering an installation such as Mr. Yont has at his command or for that matter some other site. And I think that the council owes Butler County at least the courtesy of a visit out there to look over possible sites and see whether or not we can't come up with the proper location to properly house the Area Headquarters.

I would like to say further that I can't for the life of me understand why Dr. Gerstell would make a recommendation which would take the Area Headquarters to the extreme eastern edge of the western area proper when we here in Butler, if you will observe the maps which were given to you here originally - if you will look at the area, Butler is in almost the exact geographical center of the Western District. So that to reach even the farthest point from Butler, we would travel much less distance than you would have to travel from Indiana, say, to Erie or Indiana down into Washington or Greene Counties. And if you would draw a line emanating from Butler

to any of these points, you would see a rather perfect spider web formed. On the other hand, drawing lines from Indiana it would look like Indiana was the base of a fan, if you follow my word description.

I say what I say relative to the State Civil Defense Council with all due respect because I know these people are busy. I do say this though: I think that Dr. Gerstell has been arbitrary in making the recommendation for Indiana and I think that with the facts that have been presented here that the council can do nothing else but to give us a vote of support to keep the Western Area Civil Defense Headquarters in Butler County. And I would like to say once again in closing that I think that we in Butler County deserve the courtesy of a visit out there to review the site potential for the Western Area Civil Defense Headquarters. Thank you.

DR. GERSTELL. Mr. Green, have you anyone else?

COMMISSIONER GREEN. No, that's it, Doctor.

DR. GERSTELL. Then unless Commissioner Rittelmann or General White have something to say, I have nothing to add other than you may rest assured a report of this committee will be submitted to the council and will be considered when the decision is made as to the location of the three Area

Centers. We appreciate your coming.

GENERAL WHITE. I'd like to say this, gentlemen: I do very much appreciate the time you have all taken to come here and you've certainly informed me of these things as well as the other members of the committee. I know it's been a time-consuming effort on your part not only to come here, but to prepare the informative presentations that you made. I was interested in everything you had to say and certainly, from my standpoint, you can be assured that you'll be given very careful and fair consideration. Again I thank you all.

COLONEL RITTELMANN. Thank you, General, for making my statement. I'd just like to concur with Senator Oesterling about the point that he made concerning the time that members of the council have to spend with their own problems. This is true as far as I'm concerned. I have more than I can handle right now, I believe. But I, too, want to thank all of you gentlemen here who have made this presentation. It was very enlightening and you can rest assured that it will be given the same type of consideration that General White has indicated to you from me. Thank you.

DR. GERSTELL. This hearing is now adjourned.

(At 12:45 o'clock p.m., the hearing was adjourned.)

